



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

15 April 1969

The Honorable Hale Boggs, Chairman
Foreign Economic Policy Subcommittee
Joint Economic Committee
Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

We will be pleased to contribute material to update the JEC staff study on Soviet economic performance described in your letter of 31 March 1969.

The proposal to orient the new study toward the role of the Soviet economy in support of its defense effort does present special security problems which we did not have to contend with in last year's more general study. We shall, as before, be able to contribute adequate unclassified current information on manpower, industry, and other general constituents of Soviet economic strength. However, there is little unclassified material of value on the special tasks performed by the national economy in support of Soviet military programs. There will be difficulty, therefore, in providing a useful unclassified contribution on topics such as Soviet military procurement. Information on such subjects is carefully guarded by the USSR, and our knowledge of them is necessarily derived from sensitive sources and techniques.

Because of the practical limitations on our ability to furnish meaningful data on defense-related economic activities, I suggest that this subject be presented in a single chapter rather than provide the principal focus for the entire study.

I hope that this approach will be satisfactory. Representatives of this Agency will contact Mr. Leon Herman, Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, to arrange production of the appropriate papers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Helms", with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Helms
Director